Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of the claims.

1. (currently amended) A method for preparing optionally substituted {N-[1-(S)-carbalkoxy-3-phenylpropyl]-S-alanyl-2S, 3aR, 7aS-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid} and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein a racemic mixture of ~~optionally~~ unsubstituted *trans*-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid, said ~~optionally~~ unsubstituted *trans*-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid ~~having no protecting group~~, is reacted with the N-carboxyanhydride of {N-[1-(S)-alkoxycarbonyl-3-phenylpropyl]-L-alanine}, which is optionally substituted on the phenyl ring, in a suitable inert solvent, and subsequently the resulting optionally substituted {N-[1-S-carbalkoxy-3-phenylpropyl]-S-alanyl-2S, 3aR, 7aS-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid} is isolated.

2. (currently amended) A method for preparing optionally substituted {N-[1-(S)-carbalkoxy-3-phenylpropyl]-S-alanyl-2S, 3aR, 7aS-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid} and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein a racemic mixture of ~~optionally~~ unsubstituted *trans*-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid, said ~~optionally~~ unsubstituted *trans*-octahydroindole-

2-carboxylic acid ~~having no protecting group~~, is reacted with the N-carboxyanhydride of {N-[1-(S)-alkoxycarbonyl-3-phenylpropyl]-L-alanine}, which is optionally substituted on the phenyl ring, in a suitable inert solvent, and subsequently the resulting optionally substituted {N-[1-S-carbalkoxy-3-phenylpropyl]-S-alanyl-2S, 3aR, 7aS-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid} is isolated by crystallization.

3. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the compound {N-[1-S-carbethoxy-3-phenylpropyl]-S-alanyl-2S, 3aR, 7aS-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid} (trandolapril) is prepared.

4. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2 characterized in that the resulting diastereomer mixture is converted into a suitable salt, preferably the hydrochloride, sulfate or phosphate, preferably into the hydrochloride, the desired diastereomer salt is crystallized and then the desired compound, preferably, trandolapril, is liberated therefrom, and the compound obtained in this way is subsequently converted where appropriate into a suitable salt.

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that desired diastereomer, preferably

trandolapril, is crystallized directly from the reaction mixture and, where appropriate, the compound is subsequently converted into a suitable salt.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that optionally substituted [N-(1-S-carbalkoxy-3-phenylpropyl)-S-alanyl-2S, 3aR, 7aS-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid] compounds in which "carbalkoxy" means carbethoxy, carbopropoxy or carbobutoxy, preferably carbethoxy, and the 3-phenylpropyl radical is optionally substituted on the phenyl by methyl, ethyl, propyl or butyl, preferably in the ortho or para position, and is preferably unsubstituted, are prepared.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a pharmaceutically acceptable salt is prepared, preferably a salt with hydrochloric acid, oxalic acid, tartaric acid, methylsulfonic acid, benzenesulfonic acid.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the reaction of the NCA of {N-[1-(S)-alkoxycarbonyl-3-phenylpropyl]-L-alanine} with *rac.* octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid is carried out at a temperature in the range from about -20°C to room temperature,

with the NCA of {N-[1-(S)-alkoxycarbonyl-3-phenylpropyl]-L-alanine} preferably being added to a suspension of *rac.trans*-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid in a mixed aqueous solvent system.

9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the molar ratio of the NCA to *rac.trans*-octahydroindole-2-carboxylic acid is in the range from 1:1 to 1:1.6, and the acid value (pH) is kept in the basic range, during the reaction.

10. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that mixtures of water and of a water-miscible organic solvent, preferably acetone, dioxane or tetrahydrofuran, is used as mixed aqueous solvent system.

11. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the crystallization is carried out at a temperature in the range from -5°C to +30°C, the water content of the organic solvent during the crystallization of the salt being in the range of 2-4% by weight, and the water content of the organic solvent during the crystallization of diastereomer A1 being in the range of 0.05-4.0% by weight.

12. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that an organic ester, preferably methyl acetate, ethyl acetate, propyl acetate, is used as organic solvent.

13. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the product obtained by crystallization is purified by recrystallization or by elutriation in an organic solvent or in a mixture of such a solvent with water, preferably in acetone/water, acetone, acetone/MTBE, ethyl acetate or ethyl acetate/MTBE.

14. (canceled)

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the product obtained by crystallization is crystallized by recrystallization from an organic solvent or a mixture of organic solvents wherein the water content of the solvent does not exceed 0.2% by weight(<0.2% by weight).

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the product obtained by crystallization is crystallized by recrystallization from water or mixed aqueous system at 0-25°C.

19. (canceled)

20. (canceled)